



Port Security Information Bulletin PSIB 07-03



Change in Homeland Security Threat Advisory Status

The purpose of this PSIB is to address the change in today's Homeland Security Threat Advisory from Yellow (Elevated) to Orange (High). However, due to no specific threat to the Houston-Galveston area, Maritime Security (MARSEC) 1 measures remain in effect at this time. The Transportation Security Information Report (TSIR) 03-01 recommends that all persons should be alert to any suspicious activity and should evaluate current security procedures.

Even though MARSEC I measures remain in effect, waterfront facilities and vessel owners, operators, and agents, are urged to obtain an advanced copy of the interim MARSEC 2 measures from the Coast Guard Captain of the Port. The MARSEC 2 operational measures were recently reviewed and validated by the Port Security Subcommittee and are now available for broader distribution. In order to minimize disruption to commerce and ensure the seamless implementation of these measures, appropriate facility and vessel representatives who are responsible for operations and security are strongly encouraged to obtain an advanced copy.

The measures may be picked up at the Marine Safety Office (MSO). In order to obtain the measures a [SSI declaration form](#) will be required. It can be completed on line or in person at the MSO. The MARSEC 2 measures will be available for distribution at the MSO during the week of February 10-14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 9640 Clinton Drive, Galena Park. No appointment is necessary. The MARSEC 2 measures may also be requested via e-mail at MSOHOUMDA@esunola.uscg.mil. Recipients of the PSIB should ensure appropriate company personnel are made aware of its contents. For general information, contact 713-671-5100.

Local Coast Guard commands are working closely with government agencies and industry groups to ensure that all stakeholders in the Ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City are maintaining a heightened state of vigilance and readiness.

The Coast Guard will continue to conduct security patrols within the ports and offshore. All operators are advised to maintain enhanced security measures and to report all suspicious persons or activities to MSO Houston-Galveston at (713) 671-5100, MSU Galveston at (409) 766-5400, or VTS Houston/Galveston at (713) 671-5103.

The following is a list of activities that may be considered suspicious in the vicinity of critical waterfront facilities and vessels as well as energy and transportation related infrastructure:

1. Unknown persons taking photographs of vessels, facilities or infrastructure;
2. Unknown persons attempting to gain access to facilities, vessels, or infrastructure related areas;
3. Suspicious individuals establishing businesses or roadside food stands adjacent or in proximity to facilities or infrastructure;
4. Unknown persons loitering in the vicinity of facilities, vessels, and infrastructure for extended periods of time;
5. Unknown persons calling facilities to ascertain security procedures;
6. Vehicles with personnel loitering in the vicinity of facilities, vessels, and infrastructure for extended periods of time, perhaps taking pictures or making sketches or diagrams;
7. Small boats with personnel on them loitering in the vicinity of facilities, vessels, and infrastructure for extended periods of time;
8. Suspicious General Aviation aircraft operating in the vicinity of facilities, vessels, and infrastructure for extended periods of time;
9. Any bomb threat to a vessel, waterfront facility, or transportation related infrastructure asset;
10. Unknown persons attempting to gain information about facilities, vessels or transportation related infrastructure by walking up to personnel or their families and engaging them in conversation;
11. Suspicious vendors attempting to sell merchandise in the vicinity of facilities, vessels, or transportation related infrastructure;
12. Theft of facility or company vehicles, vehicle passes, personnel identification cards, personnel uniforms, or documents containing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's);
13. Unknown or suspicious workmen or repair personnel trying to gain access to a vessel or facility;
14. Suspicious emails on the internet, unknown public affairs personnel trying to gather information regarding a facility, vessel, or transportation related infrastructure;
15. Suspicious package drop offs or attempted drop offs;
16. Anti-American sentiment being expressed by employees or vendors;
17. Anti-American pamphlets, or flyers distributed to employees or placed on windshields or in parking lots.

Again, the Coast Guard has no specific threat information regarding the Houston-Galveston area. If such information becomes available to the Coast Guard it will be conveyed through appropriate communications channels and released as soon as possible in accordance with federal security regulations.

E. W. PARSONS
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Alternate Captain of the Port